(c) Yes, Sir. The estimated carrying cost of buffer stock during the last three years is as under:—

Year	Rate per tonnes Per year (in Rs.)
1996-97 (Provisional)	1582.60
1997-98 (Provisional)	1728.90
1998-99 (Provisional)	1710.90

Financial Loss to FCI

t909. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Food Corporation of India is suffering a substantial financial loss in carrying out its liability of purchase and sale of wheat and rice;

(b) if so, what is the assessment of total financial loss during 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99;

(c) whether Government would bring out a white paper showing the income and expenditure of Food Corporation of India and also statement regarding spoilage of foodgrains and quantitative decline threin in godowns etc., in order to bring transparency in the functioning of the Corporation; and

(d) if so, by when, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Price at which the FCI, is required to purchase and supply/distribute the foodgrains for

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

PDS/TPDS and other welfare schemes are determined by the Government.

The difference between the Economic Cost and C.I.P./Average sales realisation is reimbursed to FCI by Government as consumer subsidy as the CIP of foodgrains are generally kept lower than their economic cost as a measure of deliberate social welfare policy. Carrying cost of buffer stocks are also paid to the FCI by Government as such stocks have necessarily to be maintained for the food security of the nation. However, in the process of procurement, storage and distribution certain transit and storage shortages/losses do occur which are also reimbursed to the FCI after these are investigated and regularised as per procedure prescribed by it. These losses have been as under during the years 1996-97 to 1998-99:—

Qty. Lakh Tonnes Value Rs. Crores

Year	Transit shortages		Storage shortages		Total shortages		%of short ages on purchase & Sales on qt. basis
	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Percentage
1996-97	3.47	215.13	2.49	169.80	5.%	384.93	1.11%
1997-98 (P)	2.78	192.05	1.81	137.84	4.59	329.89	1.07%
1998-99 (P)	2.66	198.00	1.51	130.00	4.17	328.00	1.00%

(c) and (d) Required information is available in the Annual Reports of the FCI which are placed before the Parliament after the accounts of the Corporation are finalised and audited by their statutory auditors.